



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

February 27, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Homeland Security Officials Look for Better Funding Formula](#)

GovExec.com, February 26, 2004

With State and local governments maintaining that homeland security funding levels are inadequate, officials are investigating adjusting funding streams to better serve the nation's preparedness agenda.

[The Race to Secure Athens](#)

USA Today, February 23, 2004

Security officials are working to enhance the Greek city's preparedness for the 2004 Summer Olympics.

[Rift Deepens Over Homeland Security Funds](#)

CentreDaily.com, February 26, 2004

States and cities have found themselves increasingly at odds with one another over homeland security funding.

[Homeland Security Officials Downplay Need for Antiterrorist Center](#)

GovExec.com, February 26, 2004

Homeland security officials this week maintained that there may not be a need for a physical terrorist screening center, due to the capability of the intelligence community to share terrorist watch list information.

[Outbreak Points Out Vulnerability of U.S. Food Supply](#)

Washington Times, February 24, 2004

The quick spread of disease among the nation's food supply is of concern to homeland security officials, who are attempting to adjust national policies to deal with the vulnerabilities.

[Ridge: Terror Still a Concern for D.C.](#)

Officer.com, February 26, 2004

DHS Secretary Ridge maintains that Washington could witness another terrorist attack, and insists that preparedness is a top concern.

[Security Efforts Turning Capital Into Armed Camp](#)

New York Times, February 21, 2004

As security efforts in Washington gain a new urgency, the balance between preparedness and practicality weigh in.

CONGRESS

HEARINGS

- [To Hold Hearings to Examine the Federal Government's Response to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy \(Mad Cow Disease\)](#), Senate Appropriations Committee, February 24, 2004.
- [To Hold Hearings to Examine Cyberterrorism in the 21st Century](#), Senate Judiciary Committee, Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee, February 24, 2004.

- [To Hold Hearings to Examine the President's Proposed Homeland Security Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2005](#), Senate Budget Committee, February 25, 2004.
- [To Hold Joint Hearings with the House Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Reorganization, to Examine the Key to Homeland Security Relating to the New Human Resources System](#), Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee, February 25, 2004.
- [To Hold Hearings to Examine Proposed Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2005 for Emergency Preparedness and Response Budget](#), Senate Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee, February 26, 2004.
- [Homeland Security Science and Technology Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2005](#), House Select Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science and Research & Development Hearing, February 25, 2004.

LEGISLATION

- [H.R.3839](#): To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to address homeland security preparedness shortcomings of units of municipal and county government.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Twister Scheduled to Hit Local School in Annual Drill](#)

Hope Star, February 24, 2004

Students and citizens throughout Arkansas are increasing their preparedness as they gear up for Severe Weather Awareness Week.

[Few Answering the Threat of Terrorism](#)

Washington Post, February 24, 2004

A town hall meeting with a focus on terrorism is being sponsored by a local television station, George Mason University, and the Washington Post. The forum will feature questions submitted by local residents on questions of preparedness.

[Course Trains Residents to Help in Disasters](#)

The Westerly Sun, February 24, 2004

The town of Charlestown, RI is recruiting residents to assist in disasters through its new CERT team.

[Hazard Response Plan Helps Gain Federal Funds](#)

Quad-City Times, February 26, 2004

Over the past five years, Clinton County officials have been developing a multi-hazard plan. With this plan in place, the county was able to obtain an extra \$60,000 in Federal funding.

[PNC Park Disaster Drill Will Have Cast of Thousands](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, February 26, 2004

The city of Pittsburgh began planning for a September tabletop exercise involving two explosions and a mock bioterrorism attack.

[Emergency Drill At Medical Center](#)

KRTE.com, February 26, 2004

Nacogdoches Medical Center tested the preparedness and response of East Texas first responders in a simulated chlorine spill.

Ariz., N.M. Sign Pact for Regional Security

Arizona Republic, February 24, 2004

Arizona and New Mexico are partners in the country's first interstate homeland-security pact. The pact is intended to assist the states in collaborating on homeland security-related issues.

RELATED INFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [National Homeland Security Knowledgebase](#)

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.